

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02219 150444Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 /031 W
-----150727Z 084763 /17

R 141420Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3492
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2219

PLEASE PASS DEPT OF LABOR AND SUBSTANCE TO AALC
NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ET
SUBJ: RECENT LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: ALL-ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU), IN COOPERATION WITH ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG), HAS BEEN REORGANIZING TRADITIONALLY MOST ANTI-GOVT UNIONS PAST TWO WEEKS. THESE HAVE INCLUDED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN ADDIS ABABA, COMMERICAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA, (CBE), ETHIOPIAN AIR LINES (EAL) EMPLOYEES, AND STRONG ARTICLE, POSSIBLY INDICATING FUTURE ACTIONS, AGAINST ANBESSA TRANSPORT WORKERS. ENGLISH PRESS HAS ALSO CONDEMNED "DEFUNCT" CONFEDERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNIONS (CELU) AND FORMER SECGEN, BEYENE SOLOMON. ALSO IN LENGTHY ANTI-CIA ARTICLE, AFRO-AMERICAN CENTER OF TRADE UNION STUDIES, HEADED BY IRVING BROWN, ACCUSED OF BEING SET UP BY U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS IN LABOR FIELD APPEAR TO BE AIMED AT CONSOLIDATING PRO-GOVT ELEMENTS, POSSIBLY IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE "PROLETARIAT/WORKERS PARTY". END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 2 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED MEETING AT CITY
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HALL OF MORE THAN 2,000 ADDIS ABABA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE EMPLOYEES. VIEWS REPORTEDLY EXCHANGED ON HOW TO "REVITALIZE" UNION AND HOW TO REESTABLISH UNION IN LINE WITH LABOR PROCLAMATION PROVISIONS. OPENING SESSION ADDRESSED BY ATO ABERRA HUNDE, CHAIRMAN OF AD-HOC ELECTION COMMITTEE WHO CONDEMNED UNHOLY TRINITY OF EPRP, EDU, AND ELF AND SAID THEY "NOW BEING

WIPED OUT BY MASSES". ABERRA NOTED FORMER TELECOM-MUNICATIONS UNION LEADERS HAD DISCOURAGED MEMBERS FROM PARTICIPATING IN PRO-GOVT RALLIES AND WEEKLY DISCUSSION FORUMS.

2. APR 6 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED 600 CBE EMPLOYEES ESTABLISHED EIGHT-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAUNCHING UNION ON NEW REVOLUTIONARY BASIS. COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN EXHOED CONDEMNATION OF EPRP AND SAID FORMER UNION LEADERS HAD FAILED TO ORGANIZE AND AWAKEN BANK EMPLOYEES. SPOKESMAN ALSO STATED FORMER UNION LEADERS HAD CLOSE LINKS WITH FORMER CELU. HE ACCUSED FORMER UNION LEADERS OF DISCOURAGING EMPLOYEES FROM FORMING OVERALL FINANCIAL UNION AND HAD INCITED EMPLOYEES TO STRIKE AND SLOW DOWN.

3. APR 14 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED GENERAL MEETING HELD APR 12 OF EAL EMPLOYEES TO EXPOSE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES IN MIDST AND TO REORGANIZE UNION ON NEW REVOLUTIONARY STAND. AD-HOC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE. PMAC MEMBER ASSIGNED TO COMMUNICATIONS & TRANSPORT MINISTRY BRIEFED MEETING ON VARIOUS REACTIONARY MACHINATIONS AGAINST REVOLUTION AND ABOUT THOSE WHO OPPOSE POLITICIZATION, ORGANIZATION AND ARMING OF BROAD MASSES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKERS PARTY. PMAC MEMBER CHARGED THESE ELEMENTS DISRUPTING DISCUSSION FORUMS AND CALLED ON EAL WORKERS TO STAND FOR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AND USE UNION FOR CAUSE OF OPPRESSED WORKERS.

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4. LENGTHY ARTICLE IN APR 10 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REVOLUTIONARY FORUM COLUMN CONTAINED STRONG ATTACK AGAINST ANBESSA TRANSPORTATION WORKERS. COLUMN VARIOUSLY ATTACKED EPRP, EDU, ELF AND CIA WHO CONSTANTLY LABORING TO SUBVERT REVOLUTION AND WHO ARE BOUND MAKE ANBESSA THEIR MAIN TARGET. COLUMN ALSO ATTACKED LABOR LEADERS WHO HAVE REMAINED ACTIVE CELU SUPPORTERS. IT PRAISED AETU FOR HAVING DRIVEN OUT ALL REACTIONARY ELEMENTS FROM WORKING CLASS RANKS AND CONCLUDED, ANBESSA WORKERS SHOULD EXPOSE EPRP, EDU, ELF AND CIA AGENTS NOW HIDDEN IN THEIR MIDST.

5. IN CONTINUING ANTI-CIA CAMPAIGN, APR 12 ETHIOPIAN HERALD DEVOTED EDITORIAL AND TWO VERY LENGTHY COLUMNS TO CONDEMNATIONS OF CIA. IN DETAILING CIA ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, ONE COLUMN ALLEGED AFRO-AMERICAN CENTER OF TRADE UNION STUDIES,

HEADED BY IRVING BROWN, ESTABLISHED BY U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. ARTICLE ONE OF STRONGEST ATTACKS YET AGAINST CIA IN ETHIOPIAN PRESS.

6. COMMENT: UNIONS BEING REORGANIZED PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY MOST ANTI-GOVT ONES. IT THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING THEY WOULD BE AETU TARGETS, HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY CONDEMNED IN PRESS. CONSTANT REFERENCE TO "PROLETARIAT/WORKERS ARTY" PROBABLY ONLY PLOY AT THIS STAGE, TO CONSOLIDATE PRO-GOVT LADERSHIP OF UNIONS. TIENKEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO AALC NEW YORK.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2812090
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT LABOR DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: ALL-ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU), IN COOPERATION WITH ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EP)
TAGS: ELAB, ET, AETU, EPMG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c36b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009